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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Sub-Commission on Prevention
of Discrimination and
Protection of Minorities
Forty-third session

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Prepared by the Secretary-General

Addendum

1. The annotations to the provisional agenda (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1991/1/Add.1) contain a reference, under agenda item 8, to human rights and extreme poverty (paras. 117-119).

2. By resolution 44/148 of 15 December 1989, the General Assembly requested the Commission on Human Rights to obtain from States, the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, as well as from other international organizations, including non-governmental organizations, their views and to study the question.

3. At its forty-sixth session, the Commission on Human Rights, aware of the necessity of a better understanding of the causes of extreme poverty, including the causes connected with the problems of development, and its interaction with the enjoyment of human rights, adopted resolution 1990/15, entitled "Human Rights and extrême poverty". In that resolution, the Commission requested States, United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and other international organizations, including non-governmental

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organizations, when making known their views on human rights based on solidarity, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 44/148, to give the necessary attention to the fact that extreme poverty and exclusion from society constitute a violation of human dignity and that urgent national and international action is required to eliminate them.

4. It also requested the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to examine the question of extreme poverty and exclusion from society in greater depth and to carry out a specific study on this question.

5. By 30 April 1991, the Secretary-General had received substantive replies from over 20 Governments, United Nations bodies, intergovernmental and governmental organizations to General Assembly resolution 44/148 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1990/15.

6. Although in neither of the two resolutions has a report on the basis of the replies received been requested the Secretary-General considered it opportune to undertake a compilation of the views and comments that he received on the subject, particularly in view of Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities decision 1990/119, in which it requested one of its members to prepare the method and plan of work for the study on human rights and extreme poverty requested by Commission on Human Rights resolution 1990/15 (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1991/18).

7. At its present session, the Sub-Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on extreme poverty (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1991/38 and Add.1).